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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**Kankakee's YWCA Highlights Early Childhood Education on No Small Matter Day**

**Kankakee, IL** – Mayor Wells-Armstrong and city council has declared August 22, 2019 as “No Small Matter Day” in Kankakee County to build awareness regarding the importance of early childhood education.

The Kankakee YWCA held their event today to show the film, *No Small Matter*, which is a documentary that sheds light on the importance on child care and early childhood education featuring several stories from real families, teachers and child care providers. Kankakee's YWCA works daily to meet the needs in our community.

“It's so important to understand that education starts at birth and it is important to address the needs of the child, as well as, their families. I've been working in this field for over 20 years and we really strive to be advocates for the entire family,” said Susanna Ellexson who is the director of the YWCA childhood center.

“I am grateful to our local YWCA for their leadership in bringing awareness and resources to the issue of early childhood education and child care with a focus on birth to five years. As a grandmother to two grandsons who were born prematurely, I have experienced the positive outcomes of child care and supportive services for parents,” said Mayor Wells-Armstrong.

Mayor Wells-Armstrong and Kankakee's YWCA believes in the power of education and will continue to work and provide services, as well as, bring awareness to the community. *No Small Matter* is the first feature documentary to explore early childhood education, provide evidence on the impact it has on a child and stresses the importance it holds on the future of our generation.

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The City of Kankakee is dedicated to protecting, building and nurturing the community while enhancing lives. We are a historic, vibrant, and active riverfront community. We

continue to transform into an extraordinary place to dream, grow, and thrive. Embracing our diversity, we strive to be progressive, inclusive, and innovative. For more information on the City of Kankakee, please visit the website at [www.citykankakee-il.gov](http://www.citykankakee-il.gov).